

Dublin, May 18. 1861

My dear Mr May - I thank you heartily  
for your letter received today enclosing  
Mr Childs communication which I look  
on as quite a benefit - as it gives an air  
of novelty to my compilation. I have anti-  
cipated the head about the Harpers, having  
very thoroughly hunted up every thing I  
could find about them Brown both in that  
paper & the Liberator. I have found much  
that is valuable particularly Miller's & Keen's  
report of conversation with them Brown -  
also Mr Tilton - and Mr Thompson account of  
the funeral. Furthermore all I could  
collect about his companions in disaffection  
- and the principal comments on the Harpers  
Ferry affair. All this material is raw &  
requires a good deal of stewing down to  
avoid needless repetition & to give only the  
essence of the whole. No matter how is  
pitchforked together in a queer way & has  
admitted of a vast deal of abridgement & ~~rather~~  
~~little~~ has retained considerable portions  
I undertook to find out the facts in the  
great bundle of rhodomontade & balderdash.  
A fine subvent fact worked in the telling!



Mr. Webb & I have devoted much time to  
the affairs which I think I told you in a  
paper of Mrs. Estlin. Mrs. W. was much  
a few days ago & she had just heard from  
of John Brown & one night was quite  
sure that I was about to be hanged for  
some very trifling provocation - this was in  
a dream - but it seemed painfully like  
reality. However I am still safe & my  
neck feels as sound as a bell - at  
least not at all dislocated.

Your particular about the state of  
things in America is real interest &  
cheer. Two college professors here are  
lecturing on the social aspects of the American  
secession - one a particularly able man  
- and both have had long talks with me  
on the subject as they ~~don't~~ have not  
hitherto known much about it them-  
selves. If the north don't give the South a  
good piece of their mind now, & take good  
care to put the people of institutions in a  
position to give them no further trouble, they  
will deserve to be tormented for a while  
longer. I don't see that the under any cir-  
cumstances the Slave States can again  
exercise the same domination as hereto-  
fore.



You asked for a likeness of me to hang  
up. I have never yet seen any such  
counterparts of that old man. Nor  
have I ever been drawn in paper. However  
I will keep you in mind when my fame  
becomes so widely spread that the general  
~~use~~ demand for a large impression  
of my lovely countenance can no longer  
be safely resisted you shall not be  
overlooked in the beneficent distribution.

I hope you are getting better. It would be  
ten thousand pities any thing should  
happen to you.

I look forward with increasing hope to your  
promised packet. Oh that I could catch  
hold of the Brown correspondence - that  
would be a prize. As to Rospath's other  
book I suppose it is "a mass of undigested  
leaves" - I think far more of his Zeal  
than his dissections. I think he ought  
to have handed out a good sum to the  
Brown family out of a circulation of  
35,000 of so big a book - & then I understand  
he has not done. With kind regards to Mrs  
Mary & the dear young daughter I am  
very affectionately Yours Rich<sup>d</sup> Webb



the other for a letter from a lady  
of the name of Mrs. Mary Smith  
I have been thinking of that for some time  
but have been so busy that I could not  
find time to do so. I have been so  
much occupied with my work that I  
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